



E. Chase
7-26-00

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Taggert, T.

Examiner: Jensen, S.

Serial No.: 09/306,552

Art Unit: 3721

Filed: 05/06/99

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ASEPTIC PACKAGING

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

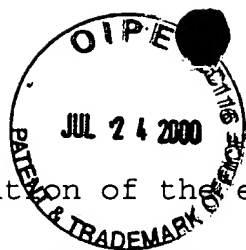
Response to Restriction Requirement

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated June 26, 2000, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-19 and 21, drawn to a method and device for aseptically bottling and filling foodstuffs at a high rate, classified in class 53, subclass 425. This election is made with traverse.

With regard to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of all claims 1-34 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the search and the examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. MPEP § 803, in which it is stated that "if the search and

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examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits" (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submits that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Should the Examiner require or request anything further from Applicants prior to examination, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below. Otherwise, Applicants request early and favorable examination on the merits.

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Dated: July 19, 2000

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